a study of international examples of road safety organizations for road safety and traffic regulations with a view to drawing lessons for India. The Committee has been asked to give its recommendations by 31st January, 2006 to enable a final decision by Committee on Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Deploying of ambulances by NHAI

2557. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ambulances presently deployed by NHAI all over the country;

(b) the role of these ambulances;

(c) whether it is a fact that project Directors at various places do not show interest in road safety and management of accidents;

(d) what steps would be proposed to conduct some pilot studies on NH-5 to determine how to reduce road-accidents; and

(e) the steps proposed to make the NH-5 an accident free highway in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present 72 ambulances have been deployed for road safety purposes on some sections of National Highways entrusted to the Authority.

(b) The ambulances are kept with the provisions of first aid to provide immediate relief to the accident victims. As per the condition of the victims after first aid, they are sent to the nearest hospital for further treatment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present no specific pilot study for NH-5 is proposed. Provision of road markings, crash barriers and proper signages are made to help the road user for their safety. Provision of ambulances, patrol vehicles and tow away cranes are also made to help the victims of

accidents and removing the stalled vehicles on the stretches which are under Operation and Maintenance contracts.

Port terminal development operation

2558. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to involve global players in the country's port-terminal development operations;

(b) if so, the details of the comprehensive maritime development policy of Government;

(c) whether Government have identified the schemes/projects in major ports proposed to be taken up for development; and

(d) if so, the details of those projects falling in the State of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF "SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Private sector participation, including foreign direct investment upto 100% under automatic route, is permitted in the ports in India. Some major international port terminal operators are already engaged in port terminal operations in India.

(b) The Comprehensive Policy for the Maritime Sectors (Ports, Merchant Shipping and IWT), which is at draft stage, seeks to combine vision and strategy for the sector through harmonious and coordinated development of country's maritime assets like ports, shipping, inland water transport systems and ship building and ship repair industries. The main points in the draft Policy are as follows*:—

(i) Holistic development of maritime transport systems through a coordinated plan and strategies for development of port infrastructure, improvement in shipping, backward integration of the hinterland through rail, road and inland water transport connectivity, augmentation of ship building and ship repair facilities so as to emerge as an internationally competitive nation in this area by 2025.